

**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system ~~{10}~~ for a lean burn internal combustion engine, which system comprising a particulate filter ~~{12}~~ disposed between an inlet ~~{18}~~ and an outlet and means for deflecting at least some exhaust gas flowing in the system away from entering the filter at a point immediately opposite the inlet, wherein the deflecting means comprises a deflector ~~{14}~~ disposed on the inlet side of the filter, which deflector comprising an upstream end having a first cross sectional area and a downstream end having a second cross sectional area, wherein the second cross sectional area  $\rightarrow$  is greater than the first cross sectional area, and wherein the deflector is in the shape of a cone or a frusto-cone, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the deflector comprises a flow through substrate comprising at least two channels which are parallel to one another.
2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~1-to-2~~, wherein the cone or frusto-cone is squashed in at least one dimension about a central, longitudinal axis.
3. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any of~~ claims ~~1-to-3~~, wherein the deflector is made of a metal.
4. (Currently Amended) A system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the deflector comprises a catalyst.
5. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~5-4~~, wherein the catalyst is for oxidising NO in the exhaust gas to NO<sub>2</sub>.
6. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~5-or-6~~, wherein the catalyst comprises ~~an optionally supported~~ at least one supported platinum group metal (PGM).
7. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim ~~7-6~~, wherein the at least one PGM comprises is platinum.
8. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to ~~any preceding claim 1~~, wherein the deflecting means comprises a lateral washcoat gradient on the filter, whereby the

backpressure in a region of the filter immediately opposite the inlet  $\rightarrow$  is greater than backpressure in an area peripheral to said region.

9. (Currently Amended) An exhaust system according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the deflecting means comprises a lateral gradient of a catalyst loading on the filter, whereby the catalyst loading in a region of the filter immediately opposite the inlet  $\leftarrow$  is less than catalyst loading in an area peripheral to said region.
10. (Original) An exhaust system according to claim-10\_9, wherein the catalyst comprises at least one PGM, optionally platinum.
11. (Currently Amended) A system according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the inlet is immediately opposite the centre of the filter.
12. (Currently Amended) A system according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the filter is a wall-flow filter.
13. (Currently Amended) A system according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the filter is of non-circular cross-section.
14. (Currently Amended) A system according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the shape of the deflector in cross-section is the same as, or similar to, the shape of filter in cross-section.
15. (Currently Amended) A system according to any preceding claim 1, wherein the filter comprises a catalyst.
16. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim-23\_15, wherein the catalyst comprises an optionally supported at least one supported PGM.
17. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim-24\_16, wherein the at least one PGM includes is platinum.
18. (Currently Amended) An internal combustion engine including an exhaust system according to any preceding claim 1.
19. (Currently Amended) An engine according to claim-26\_18, wherein it is a diesel engine.

20. (Original) A method of more evenly distributing particulate matter in a flowing exhaust gas across a particulate filter disposed in an exhaust system, which method comprising deflecting at least some exhaust gas flowing in the system away from entering the filter at a point immediately opposite an inlet wherein the deflecting means comprises a deflector disposed on the inlet side of the filter, which deflector comprising an upstream end having a first cross sectional area and a downstream end having a second cross sectional area, wherein the second cross sectional area  $\Rightarrow$  is greater than the first cross sectional area, and wherein the deflector is in the shape of a cone or a frusto-cone, characterised in that wherein the deflector comprises a flow through substrate comprising at least two channels which are parallel to one another.
21. An exhaust system according to claim 10, wherein the at least one PGM is platinum.